Import of gold

3971. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that to check gold smuggling some economic experts have been urging the Government to allow official import of gold which can augment the Government's revenue by at least Rs. 300 crore to Rs. 400 crore every year, specially since the Gold Control Act has failed to achieve its objectives;

(b) whether attention of Government has been drawn to an article captioned subversion of Indian economy-2 has published in Blitz: and

(c) if so, what are the facts therein and how Government propose to overcome the problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) Some suggestions for allowing import of Gold have been received by the Government and these have been remitted to the Working Group on Gold Policy for its consideration/recommendations.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The article alleges, among other things, that several countries have unleashed a virtual economic and cultural war on India for the last 15 years by smuggling thousands of crores worth of contraband items into this country. According to this article, chief items of contraband include gold, synthetic yarn and fabrics. The estimates made of smuggling of various commodities are speculative and not susceptible of verification. Government have been examining and implementing various policy packages for reducing the incentive for smuggling. Simultaneously Government continue to exercise strict vigilance and enforce vigorously the various anti-smuggling measures to prevent smuggling.

931 RS—

Fake currency notes in Gujarat

3972. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be plased to state:

(a) whether Government and the Ministry of Finance are aware of the 'Fake' notes of Rs. 100/- in circulation in Gujarat State; if so, what are details of the fact and whether some enquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(b) what were the outcome of the enquiry and how Government propose to stop such practice in Gujarat and other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) *Reports regarding recovery of counterfeit* currency of Rs 100/- denomination in Gujarat State have been received by the Central Bureau of Investigation and the matter is being enquired into.

Banking Commission

3973. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will consider the appointment of a Banking Commission to formulate a National Credit Policy;

(b) if so, how the Government propose to correct the imbalances in the State-wise credit deposit ratios and remove deficiencies in the distribution of credit to various sectors;

(c) what are the reasons for adverse credit deposit ratio even in economically developed States like Gujarat; and

(d) what is the crelit deposit ratio for all the States over the past five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) There is at present no proposal to appoint a Banking Commission for drawing up a National Credit Policy Credit deployment by banks in various States is monitored